

REMARKS

Claims 1-60 are pending in the instant application.

ELECTIONS/RESTRICTIONS

The Examiner has required a restriction to one of the following inventions under 35 U.S.C. § 121:

- I. Claims 1-8, 23-31, 49, 50 and 56-58, drawn to fusion proteins, classified in class 530, subclass 387.3.
- II. Claims 9-22 and 32-48, drawn to methods of treating autoimmune diseases by administering fusion proteins, classified in class 424, subclass 192.1.
- III. Claims 51-55, 59 and 60, drawn to nucleic acids, vectors, host cells, and methods of making polypeptides using said products, classified in class 536, subclass 23.1, and class 435, subclass 325.

Applicants hereby elect Group I, claims 1-8, 23-31, 49, 50 and 56-58, drawn to fusion proteins.

In addition to the election of one of the above inventions, the Examiner has required election of one species of protein, in particular, indicating whether the protein comprises FcγRIIA or FcγRIIB. The Examiner indicates that the species election is preferably made in the form of a sequence identifier. In response, Applicants hereby elect a protein comprising SEQ ID NO:42, which sequence comprises the extracellular domain of FcγRIIB. Applicants submit that the claims within the elected invention readable on the elected species are: 3-6, 8, 23, 49 and 56-58. Applicants further submit that the election of the invention of Group I renders the species election with respect to Group II moot.

Applicants submit that the inventions of Group I and Group II are related as product and process of use. Upon allowance of a product claim, Applicants request that any withdrawn process claims that depend from or otherwise include all limitations of an allowable product claim be rejoined and considered in accordance with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.104.

Upon allowance of a generic claim, Applicants request that any claims to additional species that depend from or otherwise include all the limitations of the allowable generic claim be considered in accordance with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.141.

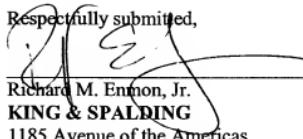
Applicants fully reserve the right to prosecute the subject matter of the non-elected inventions in one or more related applications. In addition, Applicants retain the right to petition

from the restriction requirement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.144.

Applicants respectfully request that the above remarks and amendments be entered and made of record in the file history of the instant application.

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Respectfully submitted,


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